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CONTENTS:

ARON'S ELECTRIC METER.......... 123
RAILROADS IN THE UNITED STATES 124
BUHACH.......................... 127
SAWING STONE BY WIRE CORD...... 127
SEWAGE PURIFICATION 128
HEALTH MATTERS.
  Leprosy.......................... 128
  Death from Electricity........... 129
  Cancer.................... 129
  Typhus Bacillus in Water......... 129
NOTES AND NEWS.................. 129
EDITORIAL.. 132
  The World's Fair.
ORGANIZATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS.... 132
THE NEW BUILDINGS OF THE SORBONNE, PARIS....... 133
THE MARINE CONFERENCE AT WASHINGTON.................. 133
BOOK-REVIEWS.
  Thermodynamics of the Steam Engine.......................... 134
AMONG THE PUBLISHERS......... .. 134
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.
  Sunset Glows *Sereno E. Bishop* 137
  "Suggestion" *W.* 138
  Minute Aeronauts *R. J. Bromley* 138
  Queries.......................... 138

OF THE PROGRESS toward the World's Fair of 1892, we have to report this week the first meeting of the finance committee. Of the twenty-five appointed on the committee by Mayor Grant, seventeen responded to their names on the call of the roll. These were William L. Bull, Calvin S. Brice, August Belmont, Samuel D. Babcock, Robert Dunlap, Henry B. Hyde, John H. Inman, Frederick A. Kursheedt, Jay Gould, Eugene Kelly, John McKesson, Hermann Oelrichs, William Rockefeller, Charles Stewart Smith, William Steinway, J. Edward Simmons, Jesse Seligman, Oswald Ottendorfer, the absentees being C. P. Huntington, H. O. Havemeyer, Morris K. Jesup, Ogden Mills, Joseph J. O'Donohue, Elliott F. Shepard, and Cornelius Vanderbilt. The last named sent a telegram expressing regret at his inability to attend the meeting, pledging his endorsement in any action taken, and promising to take a hand in the enterprise as early as possible. A motion by Mr. Bull to add the name of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan was promptly carried. Mr. Babcock was elected chairman by a unanimous vote. He expressed the hope that the committee would be harmonious in its action, as had been the Plan and Scope Committee of the Centennial. He had been connected with that committee for eighteen months and they never had had a divided vote. The chairman suggested that the first business should be the election of a treasurer. His suggestion was promptly adopted, and J. Edward Simmons was chosen. The subject of permanent secretary was next discussed. Secretary Wilson of the Chamber of Commerce was named by Mr. Smith and endorsed by Mr. Simmons. Mr. Belmont thought it was not well to act hastily, and believed it was of far more importance to get an executive committee of five or seven members. This committee, he said, could name a secretary, consider all the plans submitted to the Mayor, and be accountable to the general finance committee. Mr. Belmont finally made a motion for the immediate appointment of an executive committee of five by the chairman, and it was seconded by Mr. Bull. Mr. Smith withdrew his motion, and after some discussion the motion of Mr. Belmont was carried. Mr. Babcock named this executive committee: Messrs. Belmont, Morgan, Vanderbilt, Smith, Inman. On motion of Mr. Smith, Chairman Babcock and Treasurer Simmons were added to the committee. At the suggestion of Mr. Belmont, the chairmanship of the executive committee was transferred to Mr. Morgan. Mr. Belmont declared that his health would not permit him to do justice to the place. Mr. Smith offered the use of the Chamber of Commerce to the committee, and the place being convenient, it was accepted with thanks. The committee adjourned until 11 A.M. Wednesday at the Chamber of Commerce.

At the last meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers it was decided to appoint a committee of fifteen to form a plan of organization for an international electrical convention to be held in this city coincident with the World's Fair of 1892. Secretary R. W. Pope was instructed to inform President Mascart of the electrical conference at Paris of this action, and to suggest that the unfinished work of the present conference be taken up at the proposed conference of 1892. The following were elected delegates to represent the institute at the Paris conference now in session: Thomas A. Edison, E. Wilbur Rice, jr., Carl Hering, Joseph Wetzler, and Nikola Tesla. All of them are now in France or on the way there. President Elihu Thompson will in a few days announce his appointments on the committee of fifteen and the work of organization will then be taken up. An invitation will be extended to all the electrical organizations of the country to participate in the proposed international conference.

ORGANIZATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS.

THE Office of Experiment Stations in the Departmant of Agriculture was established Oct. 1, 1888. The Department can aid the stations in their relations to each other, in their use of the results of research, and in their connection with the agricultural public. To be first among the stations, the department should be the servant of them all. It should exercise not dictatorship, but leadership. Its influence should be powerful in bringing the stations together and in co-ordinating their work; in making the fruits of other research and experience, past and present, at home and abroad, available to them; in prosecuting lines of pioneer research which will in a measure relieve the stations of a difficult but necessary task, and enable them to apply their energies more fully and successfully to the study of the questions which bear directly upon the practice of agriculture, and will at the same time prepare the way for the abstract inquiry which earnest station workers aspire to, but which the public have not sufficiently learned to appreciate; in collating, condensing, and distributing their results, and in helping to carry the practical outcome to the farmer in a form in which he will appreciate and use it.

It is vitally important that the highest scientific ideal be maintained, and every effort be made toward its realization. The future usefulness of the stations will depend upon what they discover of permanent value, and this must come largely from the most abstract and profound research. To forget this will be fatal. The stations must also remember that it is their office not only to experiment, but to teach; that it is their duty to gather information as well from accumulated stores as from the fields in which they are working, and to bring it not "down to the farmer," but home to him. By thus using their most honest and earnest effort to